

Given an inferred meaning, the reader draws an appropriate conclusion about the author's meaning.

UNIT 7
Lesson 1
Drawing Conclusions

TECHNICAL TALK

And when the Giant
Stood up tall,
He wasn't very small.
In fact, he wasn't small
At all.

Sometimes, a writer says something without putting it in words. To do this the author may use an overstatement. For example, a mouse might be called a "giant of a beast." At other times the writer may use understatement. In the poem above, the author never says the giant is big. He just says the giant isn't small. But you get the idea; he is huge!

TRY IT

In this unit we will try to infer meanings from some very old songs. Read the following song. Sing it if you know the tune. Then answer the questions about meanings.

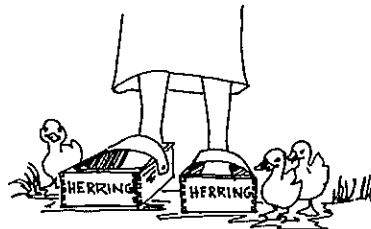
CLEMENTINE

In a cavern by a canyon
Excavating for a mine,
Dwelt a miner, forty-niner,
And his daughter, Clementine.

Light she was and like a feather,
And her shoes were number nine;
Herring boxes without topses
Sandals were for Clementine.

Drove she ducklings to the water
Every morning just at nine;
Struck her foot against a splinter
Fell into the foaming brine.

Rosy lips above the water
Blowing bubbles soft and fine;
But, alas! I was no swimmer,
So I lost my Clementine.



1. This song was written after the gold rush in California that started in (a) 1818
(b) 1849 (c) 1863 (d) 1890
2. After reading the second verse, how would you describe Clementine? (Remember to look for hidden meanings.) (a) Clementine looks like a feather (b) Clementine really has big feet and is not a very fancy dresser (c) Clementine is absolutely the most beautiful girl in the neighborhood

Write "True" or "False" for each of the following statements.

3. Fish came packed in wooden boxes. _____
4. Clementine died of eating smoked fish. _____
5. Clementine drowned. _____

Sometimes you have to read very carefully to get the author's true meaning. In Clementine, the song says one thing and then changes it completely. First Clementine is called light as a feather. Picture that in your mind. She must be graceful and quick on her feet. In the next line we find out her feet were really size nine. (That would have been considered huge then.) And she clumps around with wooden boxes tied to her feet. What is the final picture you have of Clementine? She is hardly graceful.

Read or sing the words to "Red River Valley." The mood is much more serious than in Clementine.

RED RIVER VALLEY

From this valley they say you are going,
I shall miss your sweet face and your bright smile,
Just because you are weary and tired,
You are changing your range for a while.

I've been thinking a long time my darling,
Of the sweet words you never would say,
Now alas, must my fond hopes all vanish?
For they say you are going away.

Chorus:

Come and sit by my side little darling
Do not hasten to bid me adieu.
But remember the Red River Valley
And the cowboy who loved you so true.

I have promised you darling that never,
Shall the words from my lips cause you pain,
And my life it shall be yours forever,
If only you'll love me again.

Won't you think of the valley you're leaving,
Oh! How lonely and drear it will be,
When you think of the fond heart you're breaking,
And the pain you are causing to me.



Write "True" or "False" for each of the following statements.

1. A cowboy is doing the singing. _____
2. The girl he loves is leaving the Red River Valley. _____
3. The cowboy says she is leaving because she cannot help it. _____
4. The words "changing your range" mean "going to a new area." _____
5. The girl really does love him. _____
6. Of the two, the cowboy is probably going to be hurt a lot more than the girl by their separation.

Here is one more old song. You have heard "Yankee Doodle" before, but have you ever listened carefully to some of the verses? Read (or sing) them and answer the questions.

UNIT 7
Lesson 3
Drawing Conclusions

YANKEE DOODLE

Fath'r and I went down to camp,
Along with Captain Good'n,
And there we saw the men and boys
As thick as hasty puddin'.

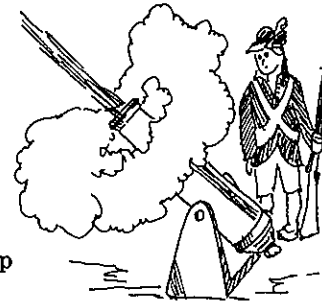
And there was General Washington
Upon a slappin' stallion
A giving orders to his men;
I guess there was a million.

And there I saw a swampin' gun,
Large as a log of maple,
Upon a mighty little cart;
A load for father's cattle.

And every time they fired it off,
It took a horn of powder;
It made a noise like father's gun
Only a nation louder.

The troopers, bold, would gallop up
And fire right in our faces;
It scared me almost half to death
To see them run such races.

It scared me so I hooked it off,
Nor stopped, as I remember,
Nor turned about till I got home,
Locked up in mother's chamber.



Match each word or phrase on the left with its meaning.

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|--------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| ___ 1. hasty puddin' | (a) a cannon |
| ___ 2. slappin' stallion | (b) a powderhorn full of gun powder |
| ___ 3. swampin' gun | (c) a yoke of oxen |
| ___ 4. horn of powder | (d) cornmeal mush or oatmeal |
| ___ 5. father's cattle | (e) soldiers |
| ___ 6. troopers | (f) slang for "ran away" |
| ___ 7. hooked it off | (g) a war horse |
8. Who do you think is talking in this song? (a) a boy (b) a man from the city (c) a woman
9. This song was sung by the Revolutionary War soldiers. We are told it helped them raise their spirits. When they sang it, do you think they could have been thinking of someone else who might be afraid of them? Who?

HOW DID YOU DO?

